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Ref No SAIC/X/5
24 May 45

I. PERSONALITIES

INTERROGATING OFFICER: When was the last time that you personally saw HITLER alive?

GOERING: In the evening of the 20 Apr, around half past eight. We raced away.

IO: To get away that same evening?

G: Yes, yes. Afterwards he retracted his order that I was to go South-- in his usual manner, and ordered me to be at his cave on the following day. The room was very small. He (HITLER) sat at a large table, and we all stood around it--about twenty of us.

IO: Was that in the cellar of the chancellory?

G: Yes, deep down in the shelter. I can't believe that he let himself be shot. You should have seen him--his whole body shook violently. And he grew more vicious with every moment.

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IO: By the way, this Professor HOFFMANN, the photographer, should be able to tell quite a bit about the FUEHRER.

G: More than anyone else.

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G: You ought to know how he (HITLER) lived in the last two or three years. As long as nothing unusual was going on, he would get up at half past eleven, after being awakened at nine o'clock. He would read the newspapers and then sleep some more. Then he'd get up and the daily routine would start. Then came the discussion of the (military) situation. Ordinarily this discussion lasted from three to four hours--during which he would get terribly excited. We had to remain throughout the conference. Then he would eat dinner and during the evening he used to talk to some officer from headquarters. After discussing the evening situation he would go to bed at nine o'clock, and at twelve o'clock he would get up again.

IO: Wasn't there a discussion of the evening situation in the morning?

G: Yes, the second one was at half past twelve or one o'clock, and lasted two hours. After that we had the conference. It was attended by GUDERIAN, BORMANN, FEGELEIN (HITLER's liaison man to HITLER) and BURCKHARDT(?). Everything was brought up there to the least little detail. All sorts of things were rushed through at this conference.

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G: BORMANN was not only head of the party offices, but one day--about a year and a half ago--we were surprised by the following interesting letter: "The FUEHRER has repeatedly given me assignments and orders which do not come under the jurisdiction of the party, but

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are of a military nature. He did this in order to give me the authority to pass his orders along in this line as well, and to supervise their execution. As of today, the FUEHRER has made me his secretary." So now he was secretary to the FUEHRER! And then there was another thing. The minister of justice had to submit to him the sentences pertaining to disloyalty trials in the Army. BORMANN returned them with the remark, that they were a disgrace, that such an antagonism of the court was impossible--he would see to it that the attorneys would be dismissed from office. He had the minister of justice completely under his thumb. By rights, SEYSS-INQUART in Holland should have made his reports to the State inspector, SOMMERS. But no, he had to give his reports directly to BORMANN. The only one who put up a struggle was TERBOVEN in Norway, but he was taken care of.

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G: HIMMLER said that Count BERNADOTTE had come to see him. He told me: "You know, he must have been the man EISENHOWER sent as a negotiator. I replied: "I can't believe that. Don't take offense, but I doubt whether they will accept you as a negotiator." Then he retorted: "Sorry to contradict you, but I have undeniable proof that I am considered abroad to be the only person who can maintain peace and order." And after that, he didn't care what happened. And I thought he might have more proof than I, and restrained myself. So I said: "I just can't picture that."..... And he always came back to the same thing: "If anything should happen to the FUEHRER, and you are unable to take over--after all, that might happen--can I say such and such?" That occurred at least 10 times during those 2 or 3 hours I kept wondering: "Why should I be unable to take over?-- Why should I be cut off?....Then it suddenly dawned upon me....POPITZ (?) already had mentioned something like that...And when I mentioned that to him (HIMMLER), he said: "Well, maybe POPITZ (?) may have said something like that. He might claim to know something. But as far as I am concerned it is an unheard-of impertinence." I wanted to talk with POPITZ (?) again, and they said: "Of course, of course!" And when I asked, when our talk could be arranged, they told me: "It may not be possible to arrange it today, but on the day after tomorrow." That day passed without the talk. Then I heard one day that the FUEHRER had ordered POPITZ (?) sentenced to death. The execution was postponed until later... Well, I couldn't help that either....

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G: This HIMMLER--he really startled me during this last conversation of ours. He made the ridiculous suggestion, that I nominate him as Chancellor upon becoming HITLER's successor. I replied to him: "I cannot do that, because according to our constitution the offices of Chancellor and President are combined." Then he said: "Sir, if anything should prevent you from becoming the successor, can I have the job then?" There I replied: "My dear HIMMLER, we'll have to wait and see. That will depend upon the circumstances. I can't see what should prevent me from taking the office. What could stop me?.... And that happened in our last conversation at least ten times. As I sat there, I pleaded with him. All he would have to do,

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would be to say just one word to his SS men, and I would be free. (G was arrested by SS end of Apr 45) But he dodged the question, and said that unfortunately my detention had been ordered by the FUEHRER. He knew for sure that it was a mistake. Everything would be cleared up shortly. So he just let me sit there. Lt Col FRANKE of the SS can testify to that.....

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II. ART TREASURES AND FUNDS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

G: I'd like to get the whole thing straightened out. I can tell you confidentially, that certain objects were destroyed completely. And I will confide a secret to you: there are some things buried at KARIN HALL. There are large objects--four beautiful sculptures. I'll tell you what's there-- including these sculptures. Then you'll have the whole story. Where I have traded things, I'll give you others. Those things which belong to me, can be stored for the time being....But I am not responsible for the FUEHRER's stuff. All I can do for you is to tell you where my own things are. It will do good to be able to say: "These items are taken care of--I can forget about them."

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G: One day I was approached by a man who owned an insignificant house in a suburb. He had his own glass workshop. He owned a tremendous collection, and sold me a few valuable pieces. From him I bought two church windows, 8 m high.

IO: You must have built some sort of a chapel.

G: No, I did not. However, I bought an entire chapel in France, an old one. I took only its windows. I was given a Gothic house in ABBEVILLE with all the trimmings. All I could use were the inside panelling, the winding stair-case and the big gate. Then a woman wanted to sell me a Spanish Harem. So I looked at it. There were wonderful things in it. But I couldn't use anything with the exception of a beautiful davenport, which I purchased. Hardly six months later FRANCO asked me what had happened. He said he had heard that I purchased a castle in Spain. Thank goodness that wasn't so.

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G: I don't have a cent abroad. A number of the most crooked deals were made in the name of the FUEHRER or the REICHSMARSCHALL (himself). And everything passed through the German customs sanctioned with our names.

von BRAUCHITSCH: And some of the most notorious orders, of which no one knew whether they were genuine, were given in the name of the FUEHRER or REICHSMARSCHALL.....

G: I made a present to my sister-in-law in Sweden, so that she could buy a small house for herself. That was my famous Swedish castle... The last time I was in Sweden, was in 1935....

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III. AIR FORCE

G: I have looked through all these casualty reports. And I found more losses than we had announced. It was important for us, of course, to prove that we had shot down always one or two more planes than the others. You should have seen what ridiculous statements we made--you couldn't help laughing when you read them. Take for example the time when we wrote that we were to get a plane with a 12 cm cannon.....

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IO: Did you know anything about remote-controlled bombs?

G: They had one disadvantage. They (the planes) had to reach an altitude of 6000 meters and had to fly in an absolutely straight line toward their targets for two minutes, without being able to dodge.

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IO: Did you know where EISENHOWER's headquarters were in Africa?

G: No. But we knew that there was a meeting in CASABLANCA. We did not like to attack headquarters anyway. We thought that might be a mutual understanding.

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G: The heaviest casualties were in HAMBURG, WUPPERTAL, and DRESDEN. It was terrible. The people of DRESDEN couldn't believe that you would bomb the city, because they thought DRESDEN was too well known as a cultural center. The city was overcrowded.

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(G on planned air attack on Russia's power plants)

G: In spite of the existing fuel shortage, enough gasoline was reserved for this attack. Everything was ready. And then the FUEHRER would have to order the demolition of these ridiculous bridges across the ODER river, which the Russians could repair overnight anyway! Ridiculous to use this magnificent machinery just to destroy these bridges.--It was maddening. All these large-scale plans had to fall through. I just couldn't stand it anymore. I finally worked myself into a nervous condition.

IO: And what did you do for relaxation?

G: I took vitamin tablets, read detective stories, and smoked my cigars very slowly. You know, I can read the same detective story three times without tiring of it.

IO: Did the FUEHRER read stories like that, too?

G: No, that was only I. He got them for me. The FUEHRER read only very serious literature..... And so, little by little, I was

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disgraced. But what was I to do? I'd give an order, only to find out on the next day that it was all nonsense..... He attacked my friends, but he meant me. And then, toward the end, just because he heard the word "negotiations" he wanted to cut me off from everything--and that after 23 years.....

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IV. CONCENTRATION CAMPS

G: These pictures (of DACHAU) which you showed me yesterday must depict the activities of the last few days. It is beyond me, just what was behind all that. HIMMLER must have suddenly gotten a fiendish pleasure out of such things. I have heard such stories before, for example that a large load of Jews left for Poland during the winter, where some of the people froze to death in their vehicles. I heard of these things mostly from the ranks of my employees and from the people. When I made inquiries, I was told, that such things would not happen again--it was claimed that the trains had been sent on the wrong route. Then there was some talk about what you call "VERNICHTUNGSTRUPPEN" (Extermination troops). It was claimed that there were many diseased people in these camps and that many died of pestilence. These troops had the job of bringing the corpses to a crematorium where they would be burned.

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G: All cruelty was repulsive to me. I can name many people whom I have helped, even Communists and Jews. My wife was so kind--I really have to be grateful for that. I often thought, if only the FUEHRER would have had a sensible wife who would have said to him: "Here is a case where you can do some good, and here another, and this one....." that would have been better for everyone..... It was very depressing for me. In some cases I had to write to HIMMLER, that he should release this one and that one. And he would reply, that he was very sorry, but that he could not do it, or perhaps that he didn't want to do it. But there were quite a few cases, where he did it anyhow.... But now it is pretty clear to me that all my efforts were wasted. Whoever attacked HIMMLER, was eliminated. On top of that, he lied to me. Not a single report was read to the FUEHRER.....

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G: I wanted the foreign workers to be rounded up so that they could be turned over to the advancing enemy troops at some central point instead of being allowed to run around loose. And then I told him (HITLER) that the concentration camps should be guarded if at all possible, until the British or the Americans arrived, because we were detaining quite a number of criminals there which neither we nor they would want to release. They should have been guarded, and the enemy should have taken the responsibility of segregating those whom he did not wish to release. You surely can't be interested in freeing a lot of criminals. And the same thing goes for workers from foreign territories--that was my biggest worry. I told him that something would have to be done about them, as well as about prisoners of war. We also mentioned Russian prisoners of war--but

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there we knew what would happen if they broke loose. The French were very decent....they were mainly employed as farmhands.

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V. JEW BAITING AND RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTIES

G: These NUREMBERG laws came as a great surprise to me. I am still wondering today, where they could have originated. I knew only too well that they would cause bad feelings abroad. ... I was in charge of the Four-Year Plan. At that time SCHACHT came to see me and said: "Sir, these incidents will cause us serious economic difficulties abroad." So I went there, and they showed me the laws, saying that they had not been approved yet. Some of the clauses were being changed, but there were no major changes. And from then on the Jew-baiting really started. The United States responded with a most disagreeable boycott. And I was given a lecture, that from now on it would be very difficult to maintain any kind of commercial relation with America. But all this was temporarily forgotten in the excitement over the Sudeten incident in Sep 38. Then the war started in '39. For the time being, all was well. Then, early in '40 they went to it again--paying particular attention to the Jews in the occupied countries. I have to admit that things kept getting worse, and that they were sanctioned by various groups. All sorts of impossible excesses occurred. I didn't approve of them, but unfortunately I couldn't do anything against them. I didn't have too good a name with the party myself. The first time when they really attacked me was in '38. They didn't say anything about the wedding, but when I had my child christened in the first year of my marriage, I was attacked vehemently. It was claimed by the party, that the christening of my child would put the FUEHRER into a terrible dilemma if it ever became known. They wanted me to name my child, without a religious ceremony. That may all be well and good, except that the FUEHRER had been put up to this--particularly by the Minister of the Interior and GOEBBELS. Then LUTZE, chief of the SA, started to reproach me, saying that such a step against the Nazi party was intolerable. And from then on there was no end of trouble--someone would always point out this incident. Later on we had some serious arguments. It was intended to merge the two religions....Next we had these terrible days in Tirol--there were some uprisings when these silly Hitler youth boys started trouble in a church. KERRL, who is a smart man, said: "I am a catholic myself, I do not want to have anything to do with that." WAGNER of MUNICH had the same attitude. The whole thing was just plain madness.

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VI. MISCELLANY

G: It was only since very recently--say for the last 4 weeks--that he (HITLER) said: "We can't help it anymore."

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G: I had the feeling that it would take nothing short of a miracle to save our cause. But I believed we might be able to fight to a

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draw by taking more radical measures. Unfortunately I wasn't boss. There were a lot of other things too. The Army was so unwieldy--it should have been reorganized. The leadership of the Army was broken up through SS interference--there was a serious split. The maddest scheme hadn't even been introduced yet, that was to come soon. There was to be a merger of the party leadership with the Army command. BORMANN was to draw up the necessary legal measures. He would have had to pass judgement on every little general.

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G: If you'd ask me now, when I first gave up the war for lost, I'll have to admit that I had some doubts and worries for quite a while--but I only realized our inevitable defeat since the very last few days. You see, I made every effort to find a way out, because I believed we had a good chance to hold out much longer. I think I can tell you frankly that things would have gone differently, if I had been supreme commander. We would have used jet-propelled planes much earlier--and that would have been most unpleasant for you.

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(Re: Counterattack in Hungary)

G: DIETRICH then went down there with the Sixth Panzer Army. The order to attack was given. The offensive was made by two divisions after a 70 km forced march, and repelled. When HITLER received the news he went raving mad. He said: "If we lose the war it will be his (SEPP DIETRICH's) fault." And he immediately issued these two orders: First of all, the four divisions, "HITLER JUGEND", "ADOLF HITLER", "DAS REICH" and another one, were to take off their brassards immediately, and were not to wear any decorations for three days. And HIMMLER was to go to VIENNA right away in order to tell SEPP DIETRICH, he should by rights be sentenced to death. Also that he (HIMMLER) was to set an example of this man who had been a traitor to his country. Then all was quiet for a few days. But later it started all over again. We were really done for.

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G: But BORMANN charged Frau SCHOLTZ-KLINK with the formation of 2 women battalions. Many already had participated in anti-aircraft work, such as operation of searchlights; that is true. But just imagine, such women's battalions were to be committed against the Russians in the second line. Their training was supposed to include the use of machine guns.

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IO: To what extent did Germany use liquid air?

G: Liquid air, how do you mean that?

B: Liquid air was an addition to explosives, since they became scarce.

IO: We heard that it had been used in Russia. The Russians demanded that it be discontinued immediately, otherwise, they would use gas.

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G: No, that is a lot of nonsense.

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G: THE PEOPLE NEVER CALLED ME ANYTHING ELSE BUT "HERMANN"! ONLY
HERMANN! NEVER ANYTHING ELSE BUT HERMANN! TO BE CALLED BY
ONE'S FIRST NAME - THAT IS THE HEIGHT OF POPULARITY.

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI
Commanding.

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